

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION -- TITO VISIT

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV MEDIA MARCH 6-7 TURNING OVER MAJOR PORTION OF NEWS COVERAGE TO TITO VISIT, INCLUDING DETAILED COVERAGE ARRIVAL ITINERARY, U.S. MEDIA ATTENTION, AND COMMENTARY. BELGRADE DAILIES POLITIKA AND BORBA DWELL AT LENGTH ON IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND SPECIAL IMPORTANCE ACCORDED TALKS AS RESULT OF TITO'S STATURE. END SUMMARY.

2. QUOTE WE NEED ONLY STATE...THE DIFFERENCE IN THE VERY SCOPE OF PUBLICITY PRECEDING TITO'S 1971 WASHINGTON VISIT AND THAT OF TODAY -- PUBLICITY NOW ACCORDED THE GUEST NOT JUST AS A PERSON AND HIS SERVICES FOR THE WORLD AND HIS OWN COUNTRY, BUT ALSO ALL TODAY'S YUGOSLAVIA, UNQUOTE, NOTES POLITIKA CORRESPONDENT JURI GUSTINCIC.

3. AFTER MENTIONING RESTON, CRONKITE INTERVIEWS AND OTHER U.S. TV COVERAGE, POLITIKA CORRESPONDENT DOWNPLAYS QUOTE PROVOCATIONS UNQUOTE OF LAFAYETTE PARK DEMONSTRATIONS SAYING QUOTE THEY MAY VERY WELL TURN OUT TO BE -- AS AMERICANS PUT IT -- COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. IN THE EYES OF MOST PERSONS, YUGOSLAVIA
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ENJOYS A WIDE REPUTATION AS A LASTING FACTOR FOR WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. AND POST-VIETNAM, POST-WATERGATE AMERICA IS TAKING CAREFUL NOTE UNQUOTE OF TITO'S COMMENTS TO RESTON ON DANGER OF UNBRIDLED RIGHTS TO SOCIETY.

4. MEANWHILE, DAILY BORBA EDITORIAL QUOTE TITO IN WASHINGTON UNQUOTE IS STRONGLY POSITIVE, AND UNUSUALLY LAUDATORY TOWARD

CARTER FOREIGN POLICY: QUOTE PRESIDENT TITO'S INTERVIEW TO THE NEW YORK TIMES AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVIEW TO BORBA CONFIRMED THE MUTUAL RESPECT TOWARD ONE ANOTHER OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' TOP LEADERS -- WHICH WAS NEVER IN DOUBT -- AS WELL AS A GROWING SENSE OF EQUALITY. CARTER'S ARRIVAL AT THE WHITE HOUSE IS AT ONCE INAUGURATING NEW CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS...CARTER AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE PREPARED TO CLOSELY COOPERATE WITH THE NONALIGNED IN THE SOLVING OF GLOBAL PROBLEMS... IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT YUGOSLAVIA BE ASSIGNED A BIG ROLE (IN THIS POLICY).

5. BORBA EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: QUOTE WE OF COURSE CONTINUE TO VIEW AMERICA FROM OUR SPECIAL YUGOSLAV PERSPECTIVE. NAMELY AS A POWERFUL COUNTRY OF MASSIVE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES... WE ARE CONFIDENT AMERICA WILL FIND THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME THE SMALL NUMBER OF REMAINING PROBLEMS WHICH HARM OUR TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS IN KEEPING WITH ITS FREELY HELD CONVICTION IN PRACTICALITY AND PRAGMATISM IN QUESTIONS OF ECONOMIC TIES AND EXPANDED COOPERATION. UNQUOTE.
CATHERMAN

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